Armenian Genocide Education Committee

2015-16 AGEC Committee

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To the Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Attached please find an "Executive Summary" concerning H B 4493 with respect to teaching of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust and other genocides in Michigan high schools.

After your review, if any questions arise, please contact us by letter, telephone, or email.

Armenian Genocide Education Committee

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AGEC

Armenian Genocide and Holocaust Education Bill-HB 4493

The first genocide of the 20th Century occurred 100 years ago by the Ottoman Empire in 1915, under the cover of World War I, resulting in the deaths of over 1½ million Armenians. The Armenian Genocide during World War I served as the proto-type for the Jewish Holocaust by the Nazi regime during World War II. This past April, Pope Francis recognized that "the first genocide of the 20th Century" was the Armenian Genocide.

Four major reasons why it is important to teach the Holocaust and Armenian Genocide and other genocides in Michigan high schools:

First, the Armenian Genocide (MCL 435.281) and the Holocaust (MCL 435.311-312) are recognized in Michigan Law. On April 23, 2015, the Michigan Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution No. 40 which resolved that "educators in the state of Michigan are encouraged to teach about human rights, the Armenian Genocide, and the consequences of genocide beginning at the high school level."

Second, when the term "genocide" was coined in 1944 by Polish jurist Raphael Lemkin, he cited the Ottoman extermination of the Armenians and the Nazi extermination of the Jews as defining examples of what he meant by genocide.

Third, genocides usually follow similar steps of implementation: the disarming of the minority group, the elimination of the group's leaders, the separation of men from women and children, their deportation or removal, their death by any means, the confiscation of their property and finally the cover-up of the crime. When students study World War I, they should learn about the Armenian Genocide, and when studying World War II students should learn about the Jewish Holocaust.

Fourth, The University of Michigan, Wayne State University, the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies at Wayne State University have programs and sponsor workshops about the Armenian Genocide and Holocaust annually. In addition, the Great Lakes History Conference and the following intermediate school districts - Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Wayne RESA, Oakland Intermediate School District, Macomb Intermediate School District, as well as North Farmington High School - have co-sponsored accredited workshops where Michigan public and private school teachers and administrators have received instruction on the Armenian Genocide.

Eleven states currently require the teaching of the Armenian Genocide as part of their public school curriculum. They are: California, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island and Virginia.

The Michigan legislature and Governor are strongly urged to support the teaching of the Armenian Genocide and Holocaust in Michigan High Schools.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE(www.legislature.mi.gov) Printed on Monday, March 28, 2016 Michigan Compiled Laws Complete Through PA 37 of 2016

Senate Resolution 0040 (2015) M rss

Sponsors

Marty Knollenberg - (primary)Mike Kowall, Steven M. Bieda, Darwin L. Booher, Jack Brandenburg, Patrick Colbeck, Mike Green, Vincent Gregory, Goeff Hansen, Curtis Hertel Jr., Dave Hildenbrand, Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Ken Horn, Peter MacGregor, Jim Marleau, Margaret O'Brien, Phil Pavlov, John Proos, David B. Robertson, Tonya Schuitmaker, Jim Stamas, Rebekah Warren (click name to see bills sponsored by that person)

A resolution marking the 100th Anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

Bill Documents

Bill Document Formatting Information

(gray icons indicate that the action did not occur or that the document is not available)

Documents



Senate Introduced Resolution

Introduced Resolutions appear as they were introduced and reflect no subsequent amendments or changes.



Senate Adopted Resolution

Adopted Resolution is the resolution, as introduced, that includes any adopted House amendments.



Bill Analysis

History

(House actions in lowercase, Senate actions in UPPERCASE)

Date A	Journal	Action
4/23/201	L5SJ 37 Pg. 49	8 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MARTY KNOLLENBERG
4/23/20:	15 SJ 37 Pg. 49	8 RULES SUSPENDED
	15 SJ 37 Pg. 49	

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By unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to the order of Resolutions

Senators Knollenberg and Kowall offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 40.

A resolution marking the 100th Anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

Whereas, On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Turkish government began a premeditated campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide against its Christian Armenian minority population, resulting in the death of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians

Whereas, On July 16, 1915, U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, wrote to the U.S. Secretary that continued until 1923; and of State, Robert Lansing, and reported: "Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from

harrowing reports of eye witnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress"; and

Whereas, On May 28, 1951, the United States government submitted a statement to the International Criminal Court which stated: "The Roman persecution of the Christians, the Turkish massacres of Armenians, the extermination of millions of Jews and Poles by the Nazis are examples of the crime of genocide"; and

Whereas, The U.S. House of Representatives has officially acknowledged the 1915 Armenian Genocide through adopted

legislation in 1975 and 1984; and

[April 23, 2015] JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

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No. 37]

Whereas, On April 22, 1981, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation which stated: "Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it-and like too many other such persecutions of too many other peoples—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten"; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes the Armenian Genocide and the importance of teaching about it in the state of Michigan. Recognition and reaffirmation of this tragedy educates people about the horrors of man's inhumanity to man and works to prevent future occurrences of genocides; and

Whereas, We call on the people of the United States and the state of Michigan to observe such day as a day of remem-

brance for all the victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry; and

Whereas, Armenian Americans contribute richly to Michigan's social mosaic and add to the political, educational, and economic development of this state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That educators in the state of Michigan are encouraged to teach about human rights, the Armenian Genocide, and the consequences of genocide denial beginning at the high school level.

Pending the order that, under rule 3.204, the resolution be referred to the Committee on Government Operations,

Senator Kowall moved that the rule be suspended.

The motion prevailed, a majority of the members serving voting therefor.

The resolution was adopted.

Senators Bieda, Booher, Brandenburg, Colbeck, Green, Gregory, Hansen, Hertel, Hildenbrand, Hopgood, Horn, MacGregor, Marleau, O'Brien, Pavlov, Proos, Robertson, Schuitmaker, Stamas and Warren were named co-sponsors of the resolution.

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NEWS / POLITICS / POLICY & ISSUES

The Armenian Community in Michigan

August 1, 2010 10:37 AM MST

Michigan's resilience in the face of recent economic setbacks can very well be attributed to the welcoming attitude it shows to all its immigrants. And we are not only talking about the booming Hispanic community.

This time the focus in on the Armenians in Michigan, whose numbers have grown from 3,000 at the beginning of the 20th Century to almost 50,000 in 2010. In fact, the Armenian Community in Michigan is one of the largest in the United States.

Armenia was the first country to be converted to Christianity, and there are several Armenian churchs in Metro Detroit, such as the Armenian Congregational Church. The largest church, St. John Armenian Church in Southfield (SJAC), was established back in 1928 by the first group of Armenian refugees forced to flee their country after the Turkish invasion in 1915. This war killed 1.5 million Armenians, and after the massacre, thousands of Armenians fled to surrounding countries such as Lebanon, Russia, Syria, and eventually went to Mexico and the United States.

By the end of the 19th Century, University of Michigan already columnted several Armenians among its students.

The Armenians who settled in the US, so different in culture and language, are today as American as apple pie, while at the same time still able to maintain their old traditions, and thus enrich Michigan's diversity.

Armenian events in Michigan are varied and multicultural. For example, the SJAC Midwest Armenian Basketball Championship that takes place from September 24 to 26, 2010, follows the Arts of Armenia fine arts program (taught by professional teachers directly from Armenia) in July. The Board of Deacons of the Armenian Congregational Church in Greater Detroit strives to preserve the Armenian Christian Heritage by means of its numerous lectures and programs

As to Armenian contribution to United States, these can be recognized in the numerous Armenian-American organizations that exist in the Michigan. As shown in the Armenian-American Veterans Building, a memorial to Armenians, all members of the Detroit community, who gave their lives to defend this country both in World War II and the Korean War.

Just as in other groups of immigrants, there are several distinguished Armenians who enrich our nation.

Among them, we can name Chrysler's Kirk Kerkorian; astronaut James Bagian, MD; Asatour Sarafian, inventor of the auto transmission; industrialist Alex Manoogian; rug mogul Edgar Hagopian; Dr. Jack Kevorkian; chess champion Garry Kasparov; and Raymond Damadian, co-Inventor of the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner (who, In fact, built the first full-body MRI machine).

Armenians are a group of Indo-European descent, and their history dates back to 1,000 b.C. More information about this community can be found at the Armenian Research Center of the University of Michigan, Dearborn.



Monica Stevens
Detroit Immigration Examiner

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March 28, 2016

To whom it may concern:

Genocide is unfortunately one of the recurring political crimes of mass violence of modern times. The twentieth and twenty-first centuries have witnessed a number of genocides, usually at the rate of one every decade or two. Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia (especially Srebrenica), and Darfur are the latest examples—all in the last four decades. Most recently, experts and even governments are now describing the way ISIS has treated members of other religions in areas it controls in northern Syria and Iraq as genocide.

Genocide is the epitome of what xenophobia, racism, discrimination, bullying, and breakdown of checks and balances in government may lead to. It is important that schoolchildren should learn that genocide is an evil that is recurring and that it must be opposed because of our beliefs in human ideals of sanctity of life and equality among races, religions, and ethnic groups.

Next to the Holocaust, the Armenian case during the First World War is arguably the second best known case of genocide across the globe. This argument is based on an extensive poll carried out last year by a French organization across many countries on different continents. It is correspondingly one of the better studied cases of genocide. It has also been the topic of many published memoirs, archival documents, and works of scholarship in various disciplines, all published in English, especially since the 1980s. Therefore, teaching staff will have a variety of options available to them to incorporate the topic into their instruction, like in history, social studies, or literature.

Sincerely,

Ara Sanjian, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of History

Director, Armenian Research Center

What It Means to Be Human

The teaching of genocide should be a part of a well-rounded and well-informed student's education. It builds empathy and provides essential historical perspective.

I am a teacher in a four-year honors program at Seaholm High School in Birmingham, Michigan. As part of our Cultural Studies year, our students spend thirteen weeks studying various genocides as they grapple with our essential question "what does it mean to be human?" We consider the roles played by perpetrators, bystanders, and victims as we consider the continuum of destruction. We also work to define the term genocide, and work to categorize what world events should be classified as such.

Within this study, our students gain a sense of empathy as they read and watch firsthand accounts of genocide. They are forced to confront the evil that humankind is capable of. It was simultaneously heartwarming and heartbreaking this year at Seaholm when a Holocaust survivor spoke to us, and our students lined up, sobbing, to hug her.

The Armenian genocide is one of the most important to study for many reasons. It is widely regarded as the first genocide of the twentieth century. The debate provoked by Turkey's denial sparks discussion of the definition and deserved reparations of the crime. It also forces students to consider how such events can happen again and again, despite repeated calls that such acts of destruction should never happen again.

The purpose of Social Studies education is to produce well-rounded citizens who are prepared to engage locally and globally, and the study of genocide must be part of a student's school experience.

Stacey Olsen
Teacher
Flex Program/Social Studies Department
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Why I teach the Armenian Genocide

I teach genocide education as part of my International Relations class at Schoolcraft College.

I begin with the Armenian Genocide of World War I, because it was the first one of the 20th century and served as a proto-type for all subsequent genocides. It was also America's first International Humanitarian Aid Campaign, to feed the *Starving Armenians*. The Near East Relief was chartered by an act of Congress in 1919 and raised over \$116 million! This model was later the basis for the United States Peace Corp, set up by President John F. Kennedy, via an Executive Order.

Many of my college students ask me why they never learned about the Armenian Genocide in high school. I do not know. But maybe we should be teaching it there, because all genocides have a common pattern in their execution. How can we teach about prevention, if we can't recognize the stages in progress?

This forgotten part of history is essential in understanding the Middle East today, because Britain and France carved up the Ottoman Empire, based upon their economic interests. The relevance of the Genocide needs to be looked at in examining Turkey's hegemony desires, their treatment of the Kurds, their desire for European Union membership, and their use of ISIS, which is duplicating the tactics used against the Christians before and during the Great War, in some of the same places. How can we talk about these events if we do not understand the history leading up to them?

To date, there have been numerous genocides in various parts of the world. What was the lesson of the first genocide if we fail to teach about it?

Sincerely,

Marjørie K. Nanian

Adjunct Associate Professor

Political Science





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Statement to Senate Education Committee

re: Genocide Education Bill (House Bill 4493)

by Geoffrey Robertson QC

I am one of Her Majesty's Counsel, a Master of the Middle Temple and the founder and head of Doughty Street Chambers, the largest human rights practice in Britain. I have served as the first Ppresident of the United Nations Special Court for Special Leone and as a "Distinguished Jurist" of the UN's Internal Justice Council. I am the author of many opinions on international law and of the textbook "Crimes Against Humanity", now in its fourth edition. I received the 2011 New York Bar Council Award for achievements in international law and affairs. I have studied the 1915 Armenian massacres and in 2014 I published the book "An Inconvenient Genocide: who now remembers the Armenians?"

As the title of my book and its contents explain, education about the Armenian Genocide is vital to understand both the history and the origins of the worst crime of all. The Armenian Genocide in 1915 was in many ways a model for the holocaust. The study of Ottoman policy will show how the various indicia of the build up to Genocide can be detected in the ways in which racial and religious hatred was incited by the Ottoman Government, 1909-14. My book for example demonstrates the very similar use of euphemistic language by the "Young Turk" Government and the Nazis in relation to what was really the transfer to death camps and the expropriation of Armenian and Jewish property. German complicity with the Armenian Genocide produced a knowledge base and a model for the later demonization and destruction of the Jews.

As for the Perinçek case, I can say with confidence that it was a victory for Armenia because together with Ms Amal Clooney I intervened on behalf of Armenia in order to correct the





doughty street chambers



mistakes that judges in the lower courts (where Armenia had not been represented) had made in casting doubt on the evidence for the genocide. Our intervention was directed to these mistaken lower court comments, which had fuelled genocide denial. We were successful in that the Grand Chamber did not repeat the endorsed comments and cast no doubt on the factual reality of the genocide. Indeed, it made clear that Armenians everywhere in Europe were entitled to have their belief in the genocide protected as part of their culture and heritage. We also advocated that however reckless Perinçek's comments were, he should not be punished for his free speech unless they were likely to provoke racial hatred or disorder, and this was the test that the Grand Chamber adopted. We supported this test, which references to the unlawful way in which Turkey was suppressing speech that asserted the truth of the Armenian Genocide (see the Hrant Dink case). So the results of the Perinçek case were certainly not a victory for Perinçek's views (as the court made clear by refusing to grant him any legal costs). It was a victory for a liberal interpretation of the free speech guarantee in Europe.

I would be happy to provide further support for this opinion if requested.

The Radical Democrat Dum vita est spes est

Turkey Drafts 'Academic Terrorism' Regulation

Posted on March 24, 2016 by the Radical Democrat



Turkish government had declared academics, who have announced their opinion contrary to security policies of the government, as "traitors who should be declared as terrorists without weapons" and started acting on presumptions to intimidate, detain and arrest them

(https://theradicaldemocrat.wordpress.com/2016/03/16/turkey-arrests-academics-for-peace/). Just recently three academics had been arrested for terrorism charges while dozens of others are still under investigation and hundreds are subjected to even more serious threats. The fact that Turkish universities are subjected to Higher Education Authority (YOK), and do not have absolute autonomy makes it difficult for academics in uttering their opinions. Yet, since there were no crimes listed earlier in the penal code, the academics facing investigation could not be put on trial easily. With the new additional regulations to Higher Education Law, the legal framework for putting academics on the "felon's dock" (https://theradicaldemocrat.wordpress.com/2016/03/22/academic-in-solitaryconfinement-as-bosphorus-university-president-appeals-to-the-pm-for-release/) becomes much easier.

The government has quickly drafted a new bill to suppress academic freedoms that allow critical scholars to announce their thoughts that are contrary to government policies. According to the new draft bill, any academic that gets involved with "activities that have separatist claims or terror activities, or acts in support of this" would be kicked out of universities and lose public offices.

According to the new bill, these are the new regulations:

- -An update to Higher Education Law that previously foresaw "warning, condemnation, temporary loss of wage, stopping promotion" now also includes losing academic title, dismissal from work, dismissal from public office".
- -Academics who get involved with separatist claims or terror activities or those who get involved with ideological or political actions, or supporting such actions will lose their public office.
- -Apart from political activities, involvement with boycott, occupy, slowdown strike, strike, stopping public works that would disturb institutional tranquility, peace and work atmosphere, would result in losing employment.
- -Against political works at universities, YOK president is now authorized to start investigation, YOK Disciplinary Board has authority to give punishment, university disciplinary boards have authority to dismiss one from work and from public office.
- -Crimes of political involvement include crimes of political and ideological petition, propagating for political parties; discrimination based on language, race, color, gender, political thoughts, philosophical belief, religion and sect, attain personal interest, act on political and ideological reasons.

The new regulation has not left the retired academics, who had signed the peace petition that initiated the latest stir in Turkish judiciary. The academics who have retired or ended their academic work for any other reason will have a mark in their personal files, and their punishments will be given if they go back to work or start working for foundation (private) universities.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GENOCIDE SCHOLARS

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March 7, 2007

Dear Members of the United States Congress:

We write to you as the international organization of scholars who study genocide. We strongly urge you to co-sponsor H. Res. 106, the House Resolution recognizing and commemorating the Armenian Genocide.

In three previous statements of the International Association of Genocide Scholarsfirst, a unanimous resolution declaring that the Turkish massacres of Armenians in 1915-1918 constituted genocide; second, an Open Letter to Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan calling upon him to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide; and third, an Open Letter concerning scholars who deny the Armenian Genocide—we have made our position clear: the historical record on the Armenian Genocide is unambiguous and documented by overwhelming evidence. It is proven by foreign office records of the United States, France, Great Britain, Russia, and perhaps most importantly, of Turkey's World War I allies, Germany and Austria-Hungary, as well as by the records of the Ottoman Courts-Martial of 1918-1920, and by decades of scholarship.

We believe it is important for Members of Congress to understand that Turkey's ninedecade-long campaign to deny the facts of the Armenian Genocide is driven by a government that has yet to engage in the honest historical self-critique that is a vital part of the democratic process. The numerous trials and imprisonments of Turkish intellectuals and journalists and the assassination of the Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink in January make this clear. It should be noted that there are Turkish scholars who are urging their government to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, and many parts of Turkish society share this pro-democratic perspective. We would note, however, that a government that still encourages extreme, uncritical nationalism has created a false narrative about the Armenian Genocide in order to absolve its predecessors of responsibility for the extermination of the Armenian people and their culture in the Ottoman Empire in 1915.

We are aware that you may be pressured by a small number of academics who support Turkey's denialist stance for often self-interested reasons. Such academics willingly falsify, distort, and manipulate the evidence in sometimes subtle ways to present a false view of history. These academics violate the ethical obligations of historical scholarship. We have noted that academics who deny the Armenian Genocide are no different than academics who deny the Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, or the Cambodian Genocide. The recent conference in Teheran devoted to Holocaust denial is a case in point. "Where scholars deny genocide in the face of decisive evidence . . . they contribute to false consciousness that can have the most dire reverberations. Their message, in effect, is . . . mass murder requires no confrontation, but should be ignored, glossed over. In this way scholars lend their considerable authority to the acceptance of this ultimate crime" (Roger Smith, Eric Markusen, Robert Jay Lifton "Professional Ethics and the Denial of the Armenian Genocide" Journal of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, vol.9, Spring, 1995).

We urge you to reject the Turkish campaign of denial, as you may be meeting with groups and individuals who are ardent deniers. We would underscore that the Armenian Genocide is not controversial, but rather is denied only by the Turkish government and its apologists.

... / ...

We urge you to pass H. Res. 106:

- 1) It is a recognition of an historical turning point in the twentieth century, the event that inaugurated the era of modern genocide. In spite of its importance, the Armenian Genocide has gone unrecognized until recently, and warrants a symbolic act of moral commemoration. The Armenian-American community first arrived in the United States as refugees and survivors of this great catastrophe and of earlier massacres in the late 19th century.
- 2) Congress will honor America's extraordinary foreign service officers (among them Leslie A. Davis, Jesse B. Jackson, Oscar Heizer, and Ambassador Henry Morgenthau) who often risked their lives rescuing Armenian citizens in 1915. These courageous American diplomats left behind some 4,000 reports totaling 37,000 pages, now in the National Archives, documents that prove the Armenian mass murders were government-planned, systematic extermination—what Raphael Lemkin named genocide. By this resolution the U.S. Congress would demonstrate that the moral principles and courage of those foreign service officers continues to represent a powerful example of American leadership. It is in the interest of the United States to support the principles of human rights that are at the core of American democracy.
- 3) Inasmuch as the popular effort in the United States to rescue and bring relief to the Armenians, first from massacres in the 1890s and then from genocide in 1915, set the stage for the era of modern human rights activism, H. Res. 106 would honor this significant contribution to United States history.
- We expect that the United States would not permit foreign governments to intrude on its own legislative process. We also expect that the U.S. government would not be influenced by threats to close American military bases or cut off sales of military hardware, especially when that pressure comes from a country with a deeply disturbing human rights record today, including violence and repressive measures against writers, minorities, intellectuals, and scholars.
- As crimes of genocide continue to plague the world, Turkey's policy of denying the Armenian Genocide gives license to those who perpetrate genocide everywhere. Just as we would not sanction denying the Holocaust, we cannot give credence to Turkey's falsification of the facts of 1915. Denial is the final stage of genocide, as it seeks to demonize the victims and rehabilitate the perpetrators.

We believe that it is in the interest of the Turkish people and their future as proud participants in the international democratic community to acknowledge the responsibility of a previous government for the genocide of the Armenian people, just as the German government has done in the case of the Holocaust.

We would be happy to meet with you in person, and would gladly supply you with the scholarly evidence that has led to the <u>unanimous</u> resolution of the International Association of Genocide Scholars that the Turkish massacre of over one million Armenians from 1915 to 1918 was a crime of genocide.

Sincerely,
Israel Charny, Ph.D.
President
International Association of Genocide Scholars

Gregory H. Stanton, J.D., Ph.D. Vice President International Association of Genocide Scholars HOME ABOUT CONTACT GENOCIDE ACTIVITIES WESTERN ARMENIA ARMENIA PROFILE BOOKS 'Unprecedented terrorist attacks': French President declares state of emergency, closes borders

Koray Caliskan: Turkish Intellectuals Who Have Recognized The Armenian Genocide

August 27, 2015 By administrator

By: Hambersom Aghbashian



Koray Caliskan is a Turkish political scientist and assistant professor of political science teaching at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Department of Political Science and International Relations. He is also a columnist at the liberal newspaper, Radikal, and works on the anthropology of capitalism. He has a book on global markets published by Princeton University Press in October 2010. He developed the idea of a TV series on honor crimes, "Menekse and Halil," screened at a Turkish national channel in 2007-2008. (1)

In December 2008, two hundred prominent Turkish intellectuals released an apology for the "great catastrophe of 1915". This was a clear reference to

the Armenian Genocide, a term still too sensitive to use so openly. The text of the apology was: "My conscience does not accept the insensitivity showed to and the denial of the Great Catastrophe that the Ottoman Armenians were subjected to in 1915. I reject this injustice and for my share, I empathize with the feelings and pain of my Armenian brothers and sisters. I apologize to them." Koray Caliskan was one of the intellectuals who signed the apology. (2)

According to "www.atour.com," on April 25, 2001, Armenian and Turkish Panelists came together in Ground Breaking Dialogue on Genocide at Fordham University" where many intellectuals, historians, scholars, Human Right activists and others participated in it. Koray Caliskan also participated and had his input where he eloquently discussed his own educational history and how there was no mention of the massacres in his elementary and secondary teachings. It was only during his



#Armenia April 7 The o started anyw After outrage billboard in E Armenian ge run this weel Tuesday nigh billboard's on

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university years that he discovered "curious tensions about what happened in our historical past. "as he described it. And despite Turkey's constant denial of such a horrific event ever taking place, he believed that "the unbearable silence is produced in such a noisy milieu" and that breaking this silence should be of utmost importance for those who truly want to say that they are Turkish. (3) Under the head line "Recognition of the Armenian Genocide", "aghet 1915. wordpress.com" wrote, "The fact of the Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman government has been documented, recognized, and affirmed in the form of media and eyewitness reports, laws, resolutions, and statements by many historians, states and international organizations. The complete catalogue of all documents categorizing the 1915 massacre of the Armenian population in Ottoman Empire as a premeditated and thoroughly executed act of genocide, is extensive". Then added a list of Turkish historian who have recognized the Armenian Genocide. It includes Halil Berktay , Taner Akçam , Murat Belge, Ahmet Insel , Bulent Peker , Salim Deringil, Ali Ertem, Fatma Muge Gocek, Koray Caliskan and many others. (4) Koray Caliskan and many other Turkish intellectuals, historians, scholars, Human Rights activists, writers and others, where criticized for being friendly to the Armenians Genocide issue and recognizing it, and as Turkish scholars they agree with the Armenians that what happened in 1915 to the Armenians is a Genocide. (5)

- 1- http://www.altcine.com/person.php?id=8213
- 2- http://www.armeniapedia.org

/index.php?title=200_prominent_Turks_apologize_for_great_

- 3- http://www.atour.com/~aahgn/news/20010425aa.html
- 4- https://aghet1915.wordpress.com/recognition/
- 5- http://www.tallarmeniantale.com/TURKISH-SCHOLARS.htm



Hambersom Aghbashian

The book signing event will be on Sunday 30, 2015 at 6.00 pm&

at Armenian Church,

2215 East Colorado Blvd. Pasadena,



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Turkish Intellectuals Who Have Recognized The Armenian Genocide 21-Fatma Müge Göçek

June 19, 2014 By administrator

By Hambersom Aghbashian

Fatma Müge Göçek (born, raised and educated in Istanbul), is a Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies.(PhD 1988, Princeton University). Her research



focuses on the comparative analysis of history, politics and gender in the first and third worlds. She critically analyzes the impact of processes such as development, nationalism, religious movements and collective violence on minorities. Her published works include East Encounters West: France and the Ottoman Empire in the 18th Century, Reconstructing Gender in the Middle East: Tradition, Identity, Power (1994 co-edited with Shiva Balaghi), Rise of

the Bourgeoisie, Demise of Empire: Ottoman Westernization and Social Change (1996), Political Cartoons in the Middle East (Markus Wiener Publishers, 1998), Social Constructions of Nationalism in the Middle East (2002), The Transformation of Turkey: Redefining State and Society from the Ottoman Empire to the Modern Era (2011), and A Question of Genocide: Armenians and Turks at the End of the Ottoman Empire (Oxford University Press, 2011 co-edited with Ronald Grigor Suny and Norman Naimark).(1)

In a lecture titled "Deciphering Denial: Modernity, the Turkish State and the 1915 Collective Violence against the Armenians, 1789-2009," at the University of Michigan(Nov.16, 2011), Gocek said "The violence against Armenians was the first instance of collective violence in Turkish history,". Talking about what happened in 1915 against the Armenians She said, "Most scholars agree that the events were a genocide. Then she asked, why do the Turkish state and society still deny it?(2)

According to "www.armenian.ch," Fatma Müge Göçek was one of the



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members of the Consulting Committee of academics who were from Turkey, Germany, USA, and France, and were supposed to participate in the First Conference on the Armenian Issue Organized in Istanbul, Turkey at Bogaziçi University during �



May 25-27, 2005. The conference was cancelled at the opening ceremony, where the Turkish Justice Minister Cemil Cicek accused those who organized and participated in the conference of treason, calling them traitors to their country (3). The conference was held On September 24-25 2005 at Bilgi University in Istanbul after two previous attempts which were

blocked by the Turkish government. It was entitled "Ottoman Armenians During the Decline of the Empire: Issues of Scientific Responsibility and Democracy". The self-avowed goal of the conference was to call into question the official Turkish account of events. The participants discussed the plight of the Armenians in the final days of the Ottoman Empire, a politically correct way in Turkey of saying the Armenian Genocide. It was the first time this subject was ever discussed so openly in Turkey. Discussing the mass killings of Armenians has long been taboo in Turkey, and scholars who use the word genocide can be prosecuted under a clause in the Turkish penal code on insulting the national character.(4)

According to http://aghet1915.wordpress.com/recognition/, Fatma
Muge Gocek is one of the Turkish intellectuals who recognized the Armenian
Genocide.Halil Berktay , Taner Akçam, Murat Belge, Ahmet Insel, Bulent Peker, Salim
Deringil, Ali Ertem, Murat Peker, Ugur Ümit Üngör and many others were in the list.(5)

♦ In an interview with Gibrahayer E-Magazine (Sunday, January 01,
 2006), ♦ Göçek said "It would certainly be wiser for the Turkish government to come to terms with its history."(6)

- 1-http://www-personal.umich.edu/~gocek/
- 2- http://www.armeniapedia.org/index.php?title=Fatma_Muge_Gocek
- 3- http://www.armenian.ch/forum/board/viewtopic.php?
- 4- http://www.armeniapedia.org /wiki/Conference:_Ottoman_Armenians_During_the_Decline_of_the
- 5- http://aghet1915.wordpress.com/recognition/
- 6- http://gibrahayer.blogspot.com/2006/01/interview-with-dr-fatma-muge-gocek.html also published:

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ETHNIC CONFLICT from the BALKANS to ANATOLIA to the CAUCASUS



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ples extended criminal liability to the highest officials of a state, including the sovereign, imposing severe restrictions on such defenses as superior orders, act of state, and military necessity. The legal nuances of these restrictions, treated as a matter of customary international law, were extensively debated in the wake of World War I by British, French, and German jurists grappling with the proposed terms of the Versailles Treaty.³¹

The Nuremberg Charter stipulation that crimes against humanity, in order to be prosecuted, have to be war-related, i.e., "in execution or in connection with the war," was treated in general terms by the 1919 Turkish Military Tribunal. In its Key Indictment, it scorned the covert goals of the conspirators in their catapulting Turkey into war by a preemptive strike against Russia. Takvimi Vekayi, No. 3540, May 5, 1919. In its Key Verdict, it reiterated this point by citing the evidence supplied by one of the members of Ittihad party's Central Committee. Takvimi Vekayi, No. 3604. The final report of the Commission on Responsibilities likewise underscored the fact that the war was "premeditated by the central powers together with their allies," especially Turkey, "and was the result of acts deliberately connected in order to make it unavoidable." It then linked these premeditated designs with the wartime perpetration of "barbarous methods in violation of the established laws and customs of war and the elementary laws of humanity."52 Above all the Tribunal paved the way for the affirmation of crimes against humanity as a supreme offense under international law, treating it as subsidiary to common and uncommon types of war crimes, and as a source of the law of nations.

The historical roots of this development, with particular reference to the nineteenth-century Armenian Question, deserve to be emphasized once more. When British Foreign Secretary Grey decided, after some hesitation, to join his French and Russian colleagues in endorsing the May 24, 1915 public warning against Turkey regarding a new wave of Armenian massacres, he "saw the threat of punishments as a continuation of nineteenth century policies against Turkish atrocities."53 Even more significant, Sir Hartley Shawcross, the British Chief Prosecutor at Nuremberg, singled out the Armenian case as the basis of the emergence of the Nuremberg law on crimes against humanity. Quoting Grotius to the effect that intervention is justified when atrocities are perpetrated by dictators against their own subjects, he declared:

The same view was acted upon by the European Powers which in time past intervened in order to protect the Christian subjects of Turkey against emel persecution. The fact is that the right of humanitarian intervention by war is not a novelty in International Law

This argument was preceded by his analysis of the limits of state sovereignty in relation to international law:

Normally International Law concedes that it is for the State to decide how it shall treat its own nationals; it is a matter of domestic jurisdiction Yet Inter-

Turkey's Empty Threats

Turkey continues to threaten America with economic retaliation if U.S. leaders speak openly and honestly about the Armenian Genocide. The historical record, however, shows that these threats are hollow:

According to Census data, U.S. trade with Turkey increased by more than 10 times since Ronald Regan on April 22, 1981, cited the Armenian Genocide in a Presidential proclamation.

This chart tracks the increase in bilateral trade between Turkey and other countries following their recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

	Armenian Genocide	Percentage Trade Increase with
	Recognition Year	Turkey Since Year of Recognition
Argentina	2007	42%
Belgium	1998	224%
Canada	2004	182%
Chile	2007	11%
France	2001	254%
Germany	2005	50%
Greece	1996	853%
Italy	2000	225%
Lebanon	2000	585%
Lithuania	2005	60%
Netherlands	2004	46%
Poland	2004	190%
Russia	1995	905%
Slovakia	2004	270%
Sweden	2000	103%
Switzerland	2003	93%
Uruguay	2004	968%
Venezuela	2005	262%

Sources: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – Trade Structure by Partner U.S Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States